

past several years. I fear that storm clouds are gathering, however, on America's horizon, that the "seductive false security of our peaceful times" is fast fading. We see a frightening proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We see worldwide terrorism, much of it directed at Americans and American interests. We see political instability and human suffering, social disorder resulting from ethnic hatred, power-hungry dictators, and the very real prospect of global financial distress with all of its attendant consequences. All of this, I believe, calls for eternal vigilance, a national defense second to none, a military equal to the threats of a new century.

We have a unique opportunity, I believe, and a strategic pause that is fast fading to build a new military equal to the new challenges and the new threats of the future. Closer to home, it is my hope that the Senate, in every future debate on social policy, will focus on the role of families, churches and community institutions in meeting human needs and touching human souls. This is a world of heroic commitment and high standards and true compassion that must be respected and fostered and protected, not harassed or undermined by Government or Hollywood. It is a world of promise that I urge all of you to take the time to discover.

I believe our Nation needs a bold, new definition of compassion. We need compassion that shows good outcomes, not just good intentions. We need to get rid of the destructive welfare culture. We have taken a great step in that direction, but we still need to fulfill our responsibilities to the less fortunate and disadvantaged, the children and the helpless. We need to abandon our illusions about Government bureaucracies, but we still need to keep our human decency.

How is this possible? I am convinced there is a way—a hopeful new direction for change, because there are people and institutions in our society that can reach and change these things. Families and neighborhoods, churches, charities, and volunteer associations have the tools to transform people's lives. They can demand individual responsibility. They can practice tough love. They can offer moral values and spiritual renewal—things that Government can't do, and we should not want Government to do.

I believe a bold, new definition of compassion will adopt this bold dream: to break the monopoly of Government as a provider of compassion and return its resources to individuals, churches, synagogues, charities, volunteer associations, community organizations and others. This, I believe, is the next step of the welfare debate and the next stage of reform, the next frontier of compassion in America.

Before I close, let me add a personal note, and it is difficult for me to say this. I have deliberated long on whether I should say this. But I believe, since I am not going to be here next year,

this is something I would want to have said. So allow me to briefly do that.

I resolved when I came here, like many of you, from the moment I took the oath, that I would do my best not to do anything to bring this body into disrepute, that I would try not to tarnish it by word or action, that whatever I did in public policy, I would try my best not to contribute to public cynicism or a diminishing of the office. I think all of us feel this burden. It is one of the reasons that I believe this impeachment process, which we are contemplating, which looms large on the horizon of this Senate, has to be taken seriously. I don't presume that any of us should draw a conclusion at this point. But I believe it is a serious thing to consider. I don't believe that moral deregulation of public office is ratified by public apathy. It will be a terrible thing if the ethical expectations of public office are allowed to wither. The Nation could double its wealth, but we could have a shrunken legacy. I believe each of you who will be here have a high duty and moral responsibility to address this with the utmost seriousness and the absolute smallest amount of partisanship that is possible, and I speak to my colleagues on the Republican side, as well as the Democrat side.

It is my hope that when the time comes, the Senate will give evidence to the ideals that I have seen displayed so many times in this body. I believe these things strongly, but I don't want to end on this point. I make the points because I have learned from so many here in the Senate and from so many great Americans who served before me how honorable public service can be. I am not leaving the Senate disillusioned in any way. I leave having seen how important and how sometimes noble elective office can be, after nearly two decades of service. I believe in this job and in its goals, and I am confident that the country is well served by my many friends and colleagues who will continue to serve and lead this institution.

Again, I thank my great State of Indiana and the people and friends who made it possible for me to serve here. I thank my God for the privilege of service in this place, and I thank each of you for being my friends and my colleagues and leaving me with memories that I will never, ever forget. I will leave here extolling this institution as the greatest deliberative body in the greatest country in the history of the world, and I have been privileged to be a part of it. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

SENATOR DAN COATS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, while our colleagues express their appreciation to our good friend from Indiana, I would like to just say a few words about him and spread those on the RECORD of the U.S. Senate.

We are all losing some good friends in the Senate Chamber this year on both

sides of the aisle, and we will have a chance over the next few hours to talk about each one of them. I want to say a few special words about my good friend, DAN COATS.

Senator DAN COATS succeeded Senator Dan Quayle in the Senate. He was a Member of the House, and he worked as a staff member before that. I have actually known this distinguished Senator from Indiana going back about 20 years now, as a staff member, which I was, as a Congressman, and as a Senator. I have to say that I truly believe that no man or woman who serves in the Senate today has had a greater influence on my own life and on my own career than DAN COATS from Indiana. He was always there for me when I sought advice in the House. And every time I have sought elective office in the Senate, he was one of the nominators. I referred to him as my "rabbit's foot" because he always said just the right things. Whenever the going is the toughest, I know I can go to DAN and seek good advice, and it will come from him. He is a man that has his priorities in order—honesty, integrity, family, and also those special things a lot of people don't know about, such as his involvement in the Big Brothers Program. One of the things he enjoyed the most, which he didn't mention today, is that he served in the House for quite some time as the ranking member on the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. He enjoyed that assignment. I always wanted to eliminate all of the select committees. But for DAN and that committee, they did a great service for the families and the children of this country.

DAN is the kind of guy also who will run late to a meeting with the archbishop and will stop and visit with a homeless man on the street to try to talk to him about his needs, and try to help him, try to get him to go to a shelter. He is really a good human being.

He has been a valuable asset to the Senate when it came to our services, when it came to working with any of us who have problems here in the Senate.

So I am going to dearly miss him as a personal friend, as a great Senator, a great family man. He and Marcia are great people. In fact, I was sitting on my patio a couple of weeks ago on Saturday, and I got to thinking about DAN COATS. I got melancholy, and I got tears in my eyes. I called him on a Saturday afternoon and said, "You can't leave. I can't go forward in the Senate without you." I found out that he and Marcia had been playing tennis on a nice clay tennis court instead of being out campaigning in the backwoods somewhere. And, somehow or other, it seemed okay.

He is leaving the Senate, but he is not leaving us. I have a feeling that he is going to have a real influence in many ways for the rest of his life, and he is going to stay close to all of us.

So on a very personal basis on behalf of the Senate, I wish you God's grace in everything you do, DAN COATS.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair recognizes the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to add to the wonderful words that were said about Senator DAN COATS by our distinguished majority leader. He has affected many of us. I think by his example we have all been enriched in this body, and in the U.S. Congress. We thank him very much.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the bankruptcy reform bill that we have just proceeded to and to say that this is a very important reform bill.

I want to commend Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY for the work he has done on this bill and to specifically talk about one part of this bill which was very important to me. That is the homestead exemption that is a part of the Texas Constitution.

I worked with Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HATCH when this bill was coming to the floor earlier this month to make sure that, by the time the bill was finished, it would take into account those States that have constitutional provisions, as my State does, which provide for some sort of homestead exemption.

In my home State of Texas, we have had a homestead exemption under our bankruptcy laws and in the constitution since the 1840s, actually; this is not something that has come about lately. But because many farmers and ranchers were very worried about losing their livelihoods if they ever got into a temporary situation—they were worried that they would lose their ability to maintain their families and their livelihoods—so we have a constitutional provision. It was important to me that we keep it.

The first bill that passed out of the Senate did not have that. But I had the assurance of Senator GRASSLEY that he would work with me to make sure that a State like mine would not be overrun on this very important point. And, in fact, Senator GRASSLEY is true to his word. I cannot say enough good things about the fact that he kept his word to the letter. We were able to come to an agreement that kept the Texas constitutional provision for the homestead exemption intact. That is in the bill that will go forward.

I hope we will be able to pass this bill, send it to the President, put it on his desk, and that he will sign it. But if in fact that isn't the case, I hope we will be able to work on this next year to have real bankruptcy reform so that people will not be able to willingly walk away from their debts, but nevertheless that will also take into account

that there are States which have constitutions about which we feel very strongly, that this is a part of our heritage. It is one that I will work tirelessly to see continued.

Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer. I appreciate very much the opportunity to work on this with Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HATCH. I hope we will prevail either in the next few days or in the next year.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR WENDELL H. FORD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as the majority leader noted, this is a bitter-sweet time for many of us. We bid colleagues farewell and we recall the times we have had together. In some cases, we have worked together and shared friendships for many years.

I have been asked to do something somewhat unusual tonight. I have been asked by the staff of our distinguished Senator from Kentucky, my dear friend, Senator FORD, to read a letter they have composed to him for the Congressional RECORD.

I am delighted that Senator FORD is on the floor to hear this personally.

So, as requested, I will read the letter, which was written by his staff. I know my own staff shares these feelings for Senator FORD. The letter is dated October 9, 1998.

OCTOBER 9, 1998.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: After several weeks of tributes, receptions, dinners and other special events in your honor, we're sure that a man of your humble nature is probably ready to have people quit making a fuss and let you leave town as unnoticed and as low-key as possible.

However, these weeks have given us the opportunity to hear others tell you what we've also known all along: your legacy of serving our state, your labor of love on behalf of all Americans, and the unflinching kindness you've shown during your time in the United States Senate will never be forgotten.

On top of just being a plain 'ole good boss, you've also been a mentor, a teacher, and someone we could always look up to for guidance and support, no matter the situation. But most importantly, you've been a friend to all of us.

You've given us the opportunity on a daily basis to personally witness the countless hours of hard work you put in on behalf of Kentuckians. We've seen you stay into the early morning hours here in the Senate during an all-night session, and then rush to catch an early morning plane for a commitment back home. We've seen you toil late into the night working on a conference committee, only to have you beat us into work the next morning with a smile and joke for everyone.

These are some of the things your Kentucky constituents may never have known. But at the same time, we know they've benefited greatly from your accomplishments on their behalf and your never-ending desire to see that all Kentuckians, no matter their station, have the tools and opportunities to lead successful and productive lives.

As we've heard you say many times, it's been a good run. And we could not let today pass without letting you know how much it's meant for us to have had the opportunity to work with you, to learn from you, and have you as our favorite Senator.

Sincerely,

YOUR STAFF.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, let me thank my good friend, the Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE, for reading this letter. I didn't know it was coming.

I really do not know how to respond to it, except to thank my staff. We claim to do a lot of things around here. And if we did not have loyal, faithful, hard-working, dedicated, intelligent staff, not only in our offices but here on the floor, we would not get accomplished near as much as we do.

So I thank them from the bottom of my heart. And I hope that in the last few days I will not get so cantankerous that they will want to expunge the RECORD of this letter.

56 BIT ENCRYPTION IS A GOOD START, BUT IS NOT ENOUGH

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the White House recently announced that it would allow some relaxation of its encryption export controls to allow the sale of strong encryption products to companies in the finance, insurance, and health sectors and to certain companies engaged in electronic commerce. While the specific details have yet to be articulated in revised regulations, it appears that the Administration is finally heeding Congress' calls to modernize its export control regulations. While this action is a step in the right direction, I believe the Administration is still moving too slowly and incrementally. Even with these proposed changes, there are still a number of other businesses and consumers who will not be able to utilize strong American-made encryption products. Since export restrictions will remain in place, foreign suppliers will continue to develop and sell strong encryption products in the international marketplace without real competition from U.S. providers. Putting \$60 billion and over 200,000 American jobs in jeopardy over the next few years.

Unfortunately, the Administration continues to pursue an outmoded policy that supports the broad use of 56-bit encryption for the vast majority of computer users. As my colleagues are aware, the government-approved 56-bit Data Encryption Standard was recently cracked last July in just 56 hours. This is particularly alarming because it was accomplished using a single computer instead of the thousands that were linked together just a few months ago to achieve the same result in 39 days.